

Mariana Islands Water Operator Association

Pacific Islands Environmental Conference

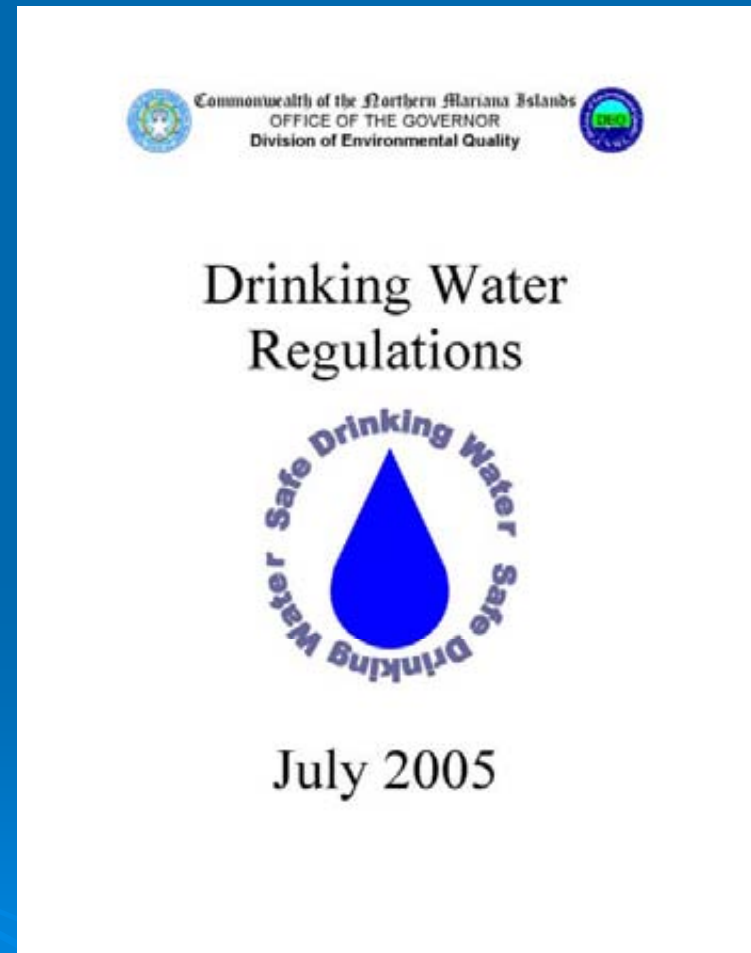
June 2009

Cecilio Raiukiulipiy



New Regulations in CNMI

- July 2005 new CNMI Drinking Water Regs
- All PWS to have certified operators by January 2006



Certification Requirements

- High School Education
- At least one year work experience
- Pass an exam



Maintaining Certification

- Operators required to have 30 hours of Continuing Education in three years to renew certification



CNMI DEQ Provides Training

- For two years, from Sept 2006 to Nov 2008, CNMI DEQ conducted continuing education training for water operators
- 3 hour class once a quarter
- 12 hours offered in one year
- FREE (funded under an EPA grant)
- **Grant fund expended at end of 2008**
- Now what do operators do?

Other Training Options

- On-line courses
- Correspondence courses
- Employer training
- Conferences
- Expensive
- May not be available to all operators



Another Option!

- Several operators decided to form an Association
- The Mission: Provide training and career development opportunities for managers and operators of water and waste water utilities.
- Something like an AWWA or WEF affiliate, but much lower cost.

BY-LAWS
OF
MARIANA ISLANDS WATER OPERATOR ASSOCIATION
A COMMONWEALTH NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

FILED
DEPT. OF COMMERCE

4:00p

FEB 09 2009

[Signature]
Registrar of Corporations
Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands

ARTICLE I. NONPROFIT PURPOSES

This corporation is organized exclusively for one of
section 501(c)(3) of the Northern Mariana Islands Code
making distributions for the exclusive benefit of

Non-Profit Charter of Incorporation
Of

MARIANA ISLANDS WATER OPERATOR ASSOCIATION
OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS CORPORATION

FILED
DEPT. OF COMMERCE

4:00p

FEB 09 2009

[Signature]
Registrar of Corporations
Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands

Details (continued)

- Applied for:
 - Certificate of Incorporation
 - Business License
 - P.O. Box
 - Bank Account



The Plan

- Keep expenses as low as possible
- Operate with all volunteer Board
- Charge just enough for training to cover room rental and snacks



The Plan (continued)

\$10 / year

- Charge a small annual membership fee to cover business expenses
- Offer membership benefits
 - Discounts on training and materials
 - Access to lending library

Website

- Purchased a URL

www.MarianasOperators.org

- Created a website and e-mail accounts

[Home](#)[Feedback](#)[Contents](#)

Mariana Islands Water Operator Association


Home[Training Calendar](#)[Membership](#)[Certification](#)[Links](#)

Welcome to the home page for the Mariana Islands Water Operator Association. This web site provides information about upcoming continuing education training for water and waste water operators in the Northern Mariana Islands (click on "Training Calendar" to the left), and links to on-line training resources and exam study materials (click on "Links:"). To learn more about the benefits of becoming a member of the Mariana Islands Water Operator Association click on "Membership." To learn more about the water operator certification requirements in the Northern Mariana Islands click on "certification."

H1N1 Flu Info

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[Things You Can Do](#) ▶
[Plan & Prepare](#) ▶
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Our Mission

The Mariana Islands Water Operator Association is a non-profit corporation whose mission is to provide and promote training and career development for operators and managers of environmental utilities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Announcing Our New Logo!!!

Training

- First class offered on March 25, 2009
- Over 50 people purchased a membership
- Two speakers, both from DEQ



Members

Hyatt Water Operators w/ RO



American Memorial Park Staff

Mariana Islands Water Operator Association

(name)

Has participated in the

How to Comply with the Homeland Security Act of 2002

How Filters Work (and how to comply with the surface water treatment rule)

training held on

March 25, 2009

at the Pacific Islands Club, in San Antonio, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands
sponsored by the Mariana Islands Water Operator Association
and has earned

3 contact hours

of continuing education in water and waste water operations

Marvin K. Seman, Trainer

Association Board Member

Derek Chambers, Trainer

Training (continued)



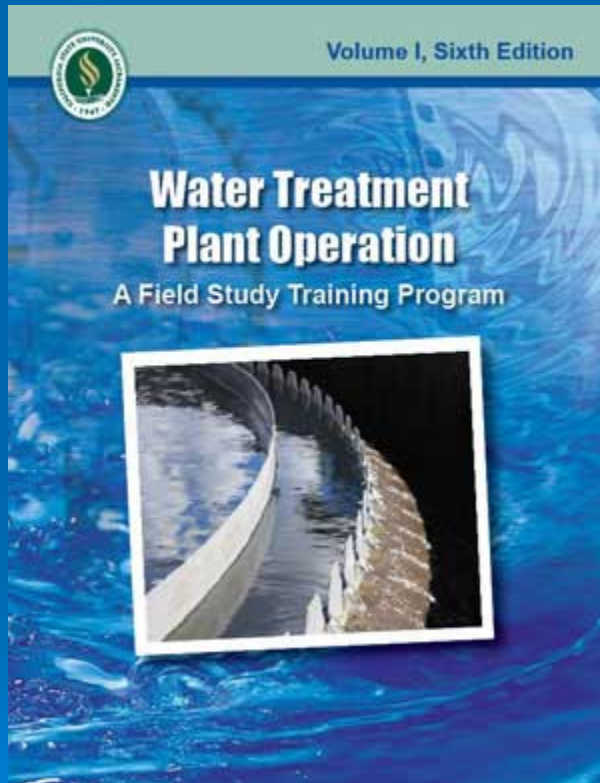
- Second class on May 13, 2009
- Again, over 50 attendees
- Guest speaker on alternative energy
- Logo contest

Logo Contest





Lending Library



- This month (June 2009) officially opened the lending library
- Currently have six text books and study guides (both water and wastewater)
- Will purchase more as funds become available

Advantages of an Association

- Flexibility to meet member needs
- No procurement rules (purchase orders, restricted vendors, etc.) like government agencies
- Leadership can change and still continue offering services

Challenges of an Association



- Need motivated, honest, trustworthy volunteers
- Time commitments to make the Association successful
- Paperwork
 - Charter, Business License, Accounts, **Taxes**

Conclusion

- Association is still very young
- So far, very successful
- Time will tell



For More Information

Mariana Islands Water
Operator Association

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